

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 04577 011010Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----011015Z 019985 /10
O 010828Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4259

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 4577

NODIS

FOR HOLBROOKE FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR MLUC KS US
SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER QUOTED ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT.

REF: A. STATE 123872 B. SEOUL 4495

1. I RAISED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER PARK TONG-JIN JUNE 1
HIS REPORTED STATEMENT ON KOREAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT.
FONMIN CLAIMED THAT HE WAS BOTH QUOTED OUT OF CONTEXT AND
MISQUOTED, PARTICULARLY IN NUCLEAR STORY. FONMIN EXPLAINED
THAT SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE UPI STORY HE WAS CORNERED BY FOREIGN
MINISTRY PRESS GROUP AND ASKED ABOUT STORY IN DONGA ILBO
THAT KOREA AMOUGHT THOSE COUNTRIES CAPABLE OF DEVELOPING ITS
OWN NUCLEAR WEAPONS. ACCORDING TO HIM, HE RESPONDED THAT
AS A KOREAN HE WAS PROUD THAT HIS NATION WAS SUFFICIENTLY
ADVANCED TO HAVE NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES, BUT HE REMINDED PRESS
MEN KOREA IS SIGNATORY TO NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY. ON OTHER
HAND, HE ADDED, AS MATTER OF PRINCIPLE ANY NATION HAS FREEDOM
TO TAKE NECESSARY ACTIONS TO ASSURE ITS SURVIVAL IF WORSE
COME TO WORSE.

2. FONMIN SAID THAT HIS COMMENTS WERE OFFHAND AND NOT
ACTUALLY INTENDED FOR PUBLICATION, ALTHOUGH CARRIED BY SEVERAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SEOUL 04577 011010Z

OF THE PAPERS REPRESENTED AT THE MINISTRY. HE PERSONALLY DOES
NOT BELIEVE KOREA IS CAPABLE OF DEVELOPING ITS OWN WEAPONS AND
FURTHERMORE WOULD NOT ATTEMPT THIS COURSE UNLESS US COMMITMENT
TO KOREA WITHDRAWN.

3. DESPITE ABOVE EXPLANATION, I TOOK OCCASION TO REMIND
FONMIN OF OUR STRONGLY HELD VIEWS ON NON-PROLIFERATION AND

SERIOUSLY ADVERSE IMPACT THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT WOULD HAVE ON OUR RELATIONS WITH KOREA. I POINTED OUT THAT FLOW OF TECHNOLOGY, FUEL ELEMENTS, ETC. FOR PEACEFUL USES DEPENDED UPON NON-PROLIFERATION, FOR EXAMPLE. I ALSO STRESSED TO FONMIN DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EVENT IN WORST CONTINGENCY, WOULD NOT ONLY BE TIME CONSUMING AND COSTLY, BUT SO RISKY IN TERMS OF RETALIATION BY OTHER SIDE AS TO NEGATE OPTION FOR COUNTRY LIKE KOREA.

4. I POINTED OUT TO FONMIN THAT EVEN OFFHAND REMARKS COULD HAVE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS. FONMIN ACKNOWLEDGED THIS POINT AND INDICATED THAT HE HAD HEARD FROM OTHER QUARTERS, PROBABLY BLUE HOUSE, ABOUT HIS COMMENTS.

SNEIDER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES, NUCLEAR WEAPONS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SEOUL04577
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P850070-2747
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197706102/aaaadlit.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e4e00773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 77 STATE 123872, 77 SEOUL 4495
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2000886
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN MINISTER QUOTED ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT
TAGS: PFOR, PREL, MNUC, PARM, KS, US, (PARK TONG-JIN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e4e00773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009